

MINUTES OF:
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2014

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Robert Richardson
Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin
Robert Blanchard
David Francis
David Saad
Mark Gorton

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
Police Chief Craig Mace
Fire Chief Alan Jack

Mr. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

The Committee reviewed and took action on the following minutes:

February 11, 2014 moved approval Mr. Gorton; second Mr. Saad (6-0)

Reserve Fund Advisory

Chief Mace reviewed several RFAs for Police Department Payroll; the chief explained the departments complement is currently 6 officers short because of resignations, retirements, IOD and sick leave as well as an administrative leave.

FY 2015 Budget - Police

Chief Mace presented the police department budget. The Chief requests two (2) additional patrol officers. The Chief reviewed current vacancies. The Chief would like to maintain the current rank structure, but add a supervisor for the detective office. All other payroll lines are driven by the collective bargaining agreement. The Chief explained changes to the training requirements mandated by the state. The police department has not had a change in staffing since 1988. The Chief explained that vice crimes are a big problem in the south end of town with the twelve (12) lodging establishments. The school resource officer role in town was explained and commented on by the committee. School attendance and residency issues were discussed. Benchmarking of the town to compare with other like communities as well as crime analysis and use of the dispatch software to diagram calls for service was also discussed. Seekonk does not fit the mold for manning strength of the police department because of the transient and retail population. Committee asked about the percent of increase as a result of the two new officers. Chief commented on the fleet of the police department. The committee asked about ideal operations. The chief commented on his plans, including swing shift, specialized units and ideal conditions. Retail organized crime is a growing concern in Seekonk.

FY 2015 Budget - Fire

Chief Jack presented the fire department budget. Payroll is all collective bargaining agreement driven with the exception of the overtime line. Use of overtime will fortify the second EMS unit. At present all positions in the Fire Department are filled, but there has been hinting of a retirement in the works. The chief explained his staffing methodology in relation to having a second EMS unit. The Chief explained the EMS billing to the committee. Ambulance receipts were explained, receipt reserve account was explained. The Chief explained the employee retention plan. The committee asked several questions about budget, staffing and fire department operations.

Introduction of Town Administrator

Shawn Cadime, the Town Administrator, was introduced to the Finance Committee. The committee discussed the general government/school department split of revenue. Mr. Cadime gave his views on his 7 days in the position. The committee also discussed budget format and presentation.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 6:30 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Moved adjournment Mr. Gorton, second Mr. Saad (6-0) 8:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin, Clerk